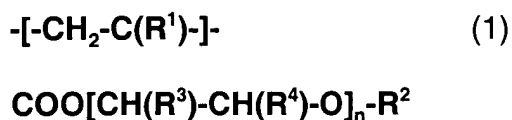


IN THE CLAIMS:

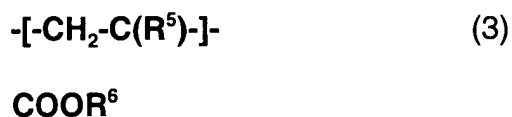
1. (Currently amended): A binder composition for an electrode for a lithium-ion secondary battery, comprising a polymer and a liquid dispersion medium; characterized in that said polymer comprises structural units represented by the following general formula (1) and is dispersed in the liquid dispersion medium:



wherein R<sup>1</sup> is hydrogen, a straight chain or branched alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or halogen, R<sup>2</sup> is a straight chain, branched or cyclic alkyl group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, or an aryl group having 6 to 30 carbon atoms, R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> are hydrogen or a methyl group, provided that R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> are not simultaneously a methyl group, and n is an integer of 1 to 50; and said polymer has a gel content of 50% to 100%, as calculated as a ratio in % of insoluble matter to an electrolyte solution, which is a one mole/liter solution of LiPF<sub>6</sub> in a mixed solvent comprised of ethylene carbonate/diethyl carbonate at a ratio of 50/50 by volume as measured at 20°C.

2. (Original): The binder composition according to claim 1, wherein said polymer comprises 0.1 to 100% by weight of the structural units of formula (1), 0 to 99.9% by weight

of acrylic acid ester or methacrylic acid ester structural units represented by the following formula (3), 0 to 50% by weight of structural units derived from a polar monomer and 0 to 20% by weight of units derived from a crosslinking monomer:



wherein R<sup>5</sup> is hydrogen or a methyl group, and R<sup>6</sup> is an alkyl group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms.

3. (Currently amended): The binder composition according to claim [[1]] 2, wherein the polar monomer is at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of cyano group-containing monoethylenically unsaturated monomers, alkyl acrylate and alkyl methacrylate monomers, the alkyl group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms and having at least one substituent selected from the group consisting of a hydroxyl group, an amino group and alkylamino groups, and ethylenically unsaturated monocarboxylic acids.

4. (Previously presented): The binder composition according to claim 1, wherein the content of the polymer is in the range of 0.2 to 80% by weight based on the weight of the binder composition.

5. (Previously presented): The binder composition according to claim 1, wherein the liquid dispersion medium is a dispersion medium having a boiling point of 80 to 350°C at normal pressure.

6. (Currently amended): The binder composition according to claim 1, wherein the polymer has ~~a gel content of 50 to 100% in an electrolyte solution and a gel content of 50 to 100% in the liquid dispersion medium.~~

7. (Previously presented): A slurry for an electrode for a lithium-ion secondary battery, characterized by comprising a binder composition as claimed in claim 1, and an active material.

8. (Original): The slurry for an electrode according to claim 7, wherein the amount of the active material is in the range of 1 to 1,000 times by weight of the amount of the solid content in the binder composition.

9. (Original): An electrode for a lithium-ion secondary battery, characterized as being made by coating a collector with a slurry as claimed in claim 8, and then drying a coating of the slurry.

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OA dated October 6, 2003  
Amdt. dated January 6, 2004

10. (Original): The electrode for a lithium-ion secondary battery according to claim 9, which has an active material layer having a thickness of 0.005 to 5 mm.

11. (Previously presented): A lithium-ion secondary battery, characterized in that one of a positive electrode and a negative electrode of the battery is an electrode as claimed in claim 9.